IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 19 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

utilizing a bearer independent protocol between a server and user equipment in a transmission of a messaging service message from a sender in a first system having a first structure for messages to a receiver of a second system having a second structure for the messages, wherein said bearer independent protocol is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the message having the first structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol; and

transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment using the bearer independent protocol.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting the message from the sender's equipment to the receiver's equipment

using the bearer independent protocol.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

converting the message to have the second structure when the message transmission to the receiver's equipment fails; and

transmitting the message to the receiver's equipment in the second structure.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the message sent from the sender's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol and having a bearer independent protocol structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

converting the received message from the bearer independent protocol structure to the second structure; and

transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the message having the bearer independent protocol structure in a server comprising an application according to the bearer independent protocol;

converting the message to have the second structure; and

transmitting the converted message from the server to the receiver's equipment.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol when the message transmission of the converted message fails; and

transmitting the message from the server to the receiver's equipment according to the bearer independent protocol.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the transmission of the message having a structure of the converted bearer independent protocol comprises:

storing the content of the message;

sending an address of the content to the receiver's equipment; and

reading the content by using the address.

9. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a first system having a first structure for messaging service messages;

a second system having a second structure for the messages; and

a server via which a message is transmitted from the first system to the second

system, wherein

the server is configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in the transmission of the message from the first system to the second system, and

said bearer independent protocol being above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the first system comprises a network node having functionality related to messaging services within the first system, wherein the network node is configured to recognize the message sent to the second system and to forward the message to the server.

11. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the first system comprises at least user equipment that comprises a sender application using the bearer independent protocol to send messages according to the bearer independent protocol, wherein the user equipment is configured to start the sender application in response to the message targeted to the second system.

12. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a first system having a first structure for messaging service messages;

a second system having a second structure for the messages; and

a server via which a message is transmitted from the first system to the second system, wherein

the server is configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in the transmission of the message from the first system to the second system,

said bearer independent protocol being above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack,

the system comprises another server configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol to transmit the message, wherein one of the servers is a first server via which the message is transmitted from a sender in the first system to the second system and the other server is a second server via which the message is transmitted from the first system towards a receiver in the second system,

the first server is configured, in response to receiving the message having the first structure, to convert the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, and to send the converted message to the second server, and

the second server is configured, in response to receiving the message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, to convert the message to have the second structure before forwarding the message to the receiver.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to utilize a bearer independent protocol in a transmission of a message from a first system having a first structure for messaging service messages to a second system having a second structure for the messages, wherein said bearer independent protocol is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the processor is configured, in response to receiving the message having the first structure, to convert the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent protocol before forwarding the message.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the processor is configured, in response to receiving a message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, to convert the message to have the second structure before forwarding the message.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, further comprising:

converting the message to have the second structure when the message transmission to the receiver's equipment fails; and

transmitting the message to the receiver's equipment in the second structure.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:

converting the message to have a structure of the bearer independent protocol when the message transmission of the converted message fails; and

transmitting the message from the server to the receiver's equipment according to

the bearer independent protocol.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the transmission of the message having a structure of the bearer independent protocol includes:

storing the content of the message;

sending an address of the content to the receiver's equipment; and

reading the content by using the address.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

utilizing means ~~configured to utilize~~for utilizing a bearer independent protocol in a transmission of a message between a sender of the message and a receiver of the message; and

transmitting means for transmitting a messaging service message from the sender in a first system having a first structure for messages to the receiver of a second system having a second structure for the messages, wherein

said bearer independent protocol is above a bearer protocol in a protocol stack~~, and~~

~~the apparatus is used for transmitting a messaging service message from the sender in a first system having a first structure for messages to the receiver of a second system having a second structure for the messages~~.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

converting means, responsive to the apparatus receiving a message having the first structure, for converting the message to have a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, and for sending the converted message to the second system.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

converting means, responsive to the apparatus receiving a message having a structure according to the bearer independent protocol, for converting the message to have the second structure, and for forwarding the converted message to the second system.